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plant remains, furnish five species of lamellibranchs, three of which are new. The lower marl beds are much richer, and from them Mr. Whitfield describes a new *Pecten*, an *Amusium*, a *Camptonectes* and a *Modiola*, besides founding two new genera. New species of *Inoceramus*, *Civota*, *Axinea*, *Nucula*, *Nuculana*, *Trigonia*, *Gouldia*, *Lucina*, *Diceras* and several other genera are also described. To the fauna of the middle marls are added a *Gryphæa*, two species of *Idonearca* and a *Modiola*; an *Ostrea*, a *Modiola*, a *Cardita*, two *Crassatellæ* and one species each of *Criocardium*, *Petricola*, *Veleda*, *Caryatis* and *Periplomya* are added to the beds at the base of the upper marls, while fifteen new species enrich that of the Eocene marls. The concluding chapter contains an account of the Unionidæ from the clays at Fish House, Camden county, two new species are described. There are thirty-five full-page illustrations and a map.

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GENERAL NOTES.

GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVELS.¹

AMERICA.—*The Ruins of Copan, etc.*—A. P. Maudsley (Proc. Roy. Geog. Soc., Sept.) has a lengthy article upon the ruins and site of Quirigua and Copan, Central America, the result of explorations carried on in 1883 and 1884. At Quirigua the chief interest centers in thirteen large carved monoliths which seem to have once adorned one of the principal plazas of the Pueblo. These ruins are twenty-five to thirty miles northwest of Copan. The account gives the earliest authentic description of the ruins, that of Diego de Palacio, written in 1576. Mr. Maudsley maintains that almost all the so-called pyramids of Copan are the raised foundations which supported roofed buildings, probably temples; and that the long heaps of stones which have been taken for city walls are really the remains of single-chambered stone-roofed houses which were raised on foundations only a few feet high. The group of terraces which seem to have supported the principal edifices was cleared by the explorer, whose account is accompanied by plans and sketches. The largest mass occupies an area nearly equal to that of the great pyramid at Ghizeh, and is built of a rubble of rough blocks of stone and mud with binding internal walls of faced stone and cement, and an outer casing of well-worked stone, often elaborately sculptured. The stone casing is usually in great steps, some of which are eight feet in breadth and height. Although no roofed buildings now remain, stones cut to a bevel, such as would be suitable for the construction of horizontal arches like those of Tikal, were found. Our author maintains that Copan, Quirigua, Palenque, Tikal and the ruin on the river Usumacinta were abandoned before the Spanish discovery of America. Palacio's letter shows them to have been ruins in 1576, and proves that the Indians then living had no knowledge of the builders, and were themselves without skill to execute such works. Mr.

¹ This department is edited by W. N. LOCKINGTON, Philadelphia.